pursues the sponsorship of terrorism as matter of state policy against India. Government have brought this to the attention of the international community, as also the role played by Pakistan in the hijacking of Indian Airline flight IC 814. The hijacking incident has highlighted to the international community Pakistan's continued state sponsorship of terrorism against India. There is now a greater appreciation of this in the international community and it is being reflected in statements by official spokesmen of various governments and in the international media coverage on Pakistan.

Government have also raised the matter of the hijacking with the Government of Pakistan and have provided evidence to them of the involvement of their nationals in the hijacking. Government have reminded the Government of Pakistan that as a signatory to several international conventions, it has an international obligation to take the hijackers into custody and to extradite them to India. The Government of Pakistan in its response has reiterated its general position that it would undertake to apprehend and prosecute any person or persons found on its territory or the territory of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir who may be suspected of having committed offences related to the hijacking. As they have at the same time rejected our demarche Pakistan's general commitment has to be assessed accordingly.

Government continues to take all steps necessary to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Info-tech Facilities in the Country

809. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's plan to enhance modern info-tech facilities throughout the country;

(b) whether Government would consider to improve the situation in North-Eastern States which are lagging behind in this aspect;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Various steps have been taken in this regard. The details are as follows:—

(i) Software Technology Park of India, an autonomous society under Ministry of Information Technology has set-up 14 earth station facilities for high-speed data communication predominantly for software export units in various parts of the country;

(ii) Education Research Networking (ERNET) India provides links to the education and research institutions in the country;

(iii) National Informatics Centre has countrywise network Primarily for Government uses.

(iv) A Rs. 100 crore National Venture Capital Fund has been set up in association with Small Industries Development Bank of India for the IT industry particularly for small and medium enterprises.

(v) A demo centre showcasing key application for E-goverance is being set up at electronics Niketan. The application developed in the demo centre will be available for replication in all other States.

(vi) To promote E-commerce and design and development in the area of Semiconductor, Information Technology Bill, 1999 and Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout Design Bill, 1999 respectively have been introduced in the Parliament.

(vii) The Directorate of Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certifications has undertaken the programme for testing and quality control of software. Besides this, Department of Telecom Services, Ministry of Communication has taken various initiatives with reference to expansion of Internet Infrastructure in the country.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Information Technology has taken major initiatives in the North-Eastern States.

1. Some of the on-going initiatives include:—

— STPI Guwahati with links with other North-Eastern States
— ERNET connectivity to 7 universities in North-Eastern States
— Sikkim Connect
— Extension Centre of ER&DC, Calcutta at Guwahati
— Centre for CEDT at Mizoram
— 49 courses in Manpower Development/Training in IT and Repairs & Maintenance at 16 institutions.
— Tea process automation
— Resource centre for Indian Language Technology Solutions (Assamese & Manipuri) at IIT, Guwahati.
— IT infrastructure at 66 Districts and State headquarters by National Informatics Centre (NIC)
— Infrastructure provided by NIC ibn each district of North-Eastern States and Video Conferencing facility in State Capitals

2. Recently, Ministry of Information Technology has formulated a proposal of setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) in 486 Blocks of North-Eastern States including Sikkim.

(d) Does not arise.

Software exports

810. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total value of software exports to various countries during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) what is the level of growth in software; and

(c) what additional incentives are being proposed to boost software exports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND